A Brief introduction of Shri Jayesha Vittala Dasaru

ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ಜಯೇಶ ವಿಠಲ ದಾಸರು.
ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯ ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ವಿಠಲ ದಾಸರ ಪರಮ ಶಿಷ್ಯರು.



ಪುಣ್ಯತಿಥಿ ವೈಶಾಖ ಬಹುಳ ಬಿದಿಗೆ (ಕ್ರಿ.ಶ. ೧೮೫೦-೧೯೬೩)

ಇಂದುಮೌಳಿ ಪದಾಬ್ಜಾಳಿಂ । ಮಂದ ಸಜ್ಜನ ತಾರಕಂ ।
ಇಂದ್ರಕಾಮ ಸಮಾಭಾಸಂ । ಸುಂದರಾಂಗ ಸಮನ್ವಿತಂ ॥
ವಿಜಯೋಪದೋಪೇತಂ । ಅಜಜಾತ ಸುತಾಖ್ಯಾಜಂ ।
ಶ್ರೀ ಜಯೇಶೇತಿ ದಾಸಾಖ್ಯಂ । ಭಜೇ ವೈರಾಗ್ಯಶಾಲಿನಂ ॥

(*dhyAna shlOka* in Baraha format)

iMdumauLi padAbjALiM | maMda sajjana tArakaM |
iMdrakAma samAbhAsaM | suMdarAMga samanvitaM ||
vijayOpadOpEtaM | ajajAta sutAkhyAjaM |
shrI jayEshEti dAsAkhyaM | bhajE vairAgyashAlinaM ||

The greatness of **Shri Vijaya Ramachandra Vittala Dasaru (Shri Ramaryaru)** can be easily understood if one just recollects the kind of disciples he has produced. *shrI jayEsha viThThala dAsaru* (henceforth referred to as *shrI dAsaru)* is one such disciple who exalts not only in preaching every iota of *tatvavAda* but also effectively conveying the true meaning of *jnAna, bhakti and vairAgya* at various stages of his life. It is evident from his *jIvana charitre* that he possessed plethora of *bhakti* towards the Lord and his guru Shri Ramaryaru in particular. Following paragraphs describe several instances where *shrI dAsaru* exhibited the essence of *guru bhakti.*

shrI dAsaru belonged to a *sAtvik mAdhva* Brahmin couple namely, Shri Ramarayaru and Smt. Radha Bai. Right from childhood, his physical outlook was as attractive as his *AdhyAtmika* (spiritual) knowledge. One of the disciples of *shrI dAsaru* narrates that he was very handsome and the sweet fragrance radiating from his body indicated the salient features of *shrI manmatha*.

As the family of *shrI dAsaru* was very rich, they provided him with all the materialistic pleasures in life that one could ask for but he never aspired for it. *shrI dAsaru's* parents even appointed a security guard (*anga rakshaka*) to take care of him. On one occasion while walking on the streets of Mysore, he felt the heaviness of the gold ornament he was wearing and it seemed to disturb his mental stability. He thought thus, "How can a *jaDa vastu* have such an influence on a *chEtana*? *jaDa* is *prAkRuta* and *chetana* is *aprAkRuta*, who is beyond all this". Having thought so, he just took off the ornament and threw it on ground. The security guard accompanying him narrated this incident to his parents. This reveals the fact *shrI dAsaru* was completely detached from this materialistic world at a very early age.

In another instance, when *shrI dAsaru* went to *shrI narasimha dEvasthana* along with his mother, he got lost in the temple premises and did not appear for nearly 6 hours. Subsequently on his return, his mother learnt from him that all the while he was chatting with *shrI narasimha*. She was astonished to hear this & prayed to the lord to disclose the *mahima* of her son.

shrI dAsaru was excelling in his academics as much as his *AdhyAtmika ShikhshaNa*. He stood first in the matriculation exam for Mysore state and later graduated from Madras University specializing in Mathematics earning himself a Bachelors degree (B. A.) by securing top honors.

vishEsha guru bhakti

Once, *shrI dAsaru* undertook a pilgrimage to Namakal to perform *sEva* to shrI nArasimha and *shrI mukhya praNa* for seven days. During the course of his *sEva*, he got to know the spiritual power and *mahime* of **Shri Vijaya Rama Chandra ViTTala DAsa** (Shri Ramaryaru) from some of his disciples visiting the temple at the time. The next day, during *brAhmi-muhUrta*, *shrI dAsaru* was advised by *taijasa rUpi paramAtma* to visit Mysore

and meet Shri Ramaryaru to get proper direction for his *sAdhana*. *shrI dAsaru* immediately realized the importance of this message and started the preparations immediately to necessitate the order of the Lord. On the following day, he started walking on bare feet for nearly 30 miles to reach Salem from Namakal since there were no proper transportation facilities. The enthusiasm to meet his *AdhyAtma guru* energized him to cover the distance within no time. On reaching the Salem station, *shrI dAsaru* realized that he did not have enough money to purchase a ticket to Mysore. The *utkaTa ichcha* to reach his guru was so prevalent that *shrI dAsaru* traded his very expensive golden bracelets for a mere ticket. At Mysore, Shri Ramaryaru through his *jnAna drushti* realized that *shrI dAsaru* was approaching him. As soon as *shrI dAsaru* met Shri Ramaryaru, his happiness knew no bounds. He fell at the lotus feet of his guru and begged him for his *anugraha*. Shri Ramaryaru lifted him with compassion and embraced him like a mother would embrace her child. **Shri Ramaryaru gave a coconut as *prasAda* to *shrI dAsaru*. He consumed every bit of it including the hard shell. He didn't want to leave anything that was given by his guru.** This indeed shows the deep devotion he had towards his guru – "***AtmanivEdanam***".

As time progressed, the spiritual bondage between Shri Ramaryaru and *shrI dAsaru* increased to such an extent that it resulted in culmination of offering *dasAnkitha* to *shrI dAsaru* as "***shri jayEsha viThThala***". Shri Ramaryaru composed the following *kruti* requesting the Indweller of *shrI dAsaru* – *shrI jayEsha viThThala* to bestow His grace upon *shrI dAsaru*.

ಕರುಣಿಸು ಜಯೇಶ ವಿಠಲ। ವರ ಅಂಕಿತವಿದನು ಇತ್ತೆ ॥ ಪ ॥
ತರುಳ ನಿನ್ನವನೆಂದು । ಗುರುವಾತ ಸ್ಥಿತನಾಗಿ । ಭರದಿ ಪಾಲಿಸಿದೆ ಇವನ ।
ಹರಿ ನೀ ನಿದ್ದೆಡೆಗೆ ಕರೆಸಿ ॥ ಅ. ಪ ॥

ಇರಿಸು ವರ್ಣಾಶ್ರಮ ವರಧರ್ಮ ಕರ್ಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಮರೆಸಿ ಕಾಮ್ಯ ಕರ್ಮಗಳೆಲ್ಲವನ್ನು,
ಸ್ಮರಿಸದಂತೆ ಮಾಡು ಪರಸತಿಯರೊಲಿಮೆ, ಮರೆಯದಂತಿರಲಿ ಪರತತ್ವವನ್ನು ॥ ೧ ॥

ಅತಿಥಿ ಅಭ್ಯಾಗತರ ಪೂಜೆ ಸತಿ ಸುತ ಪರಿವಾರದಿ ಕೃತ ಕೃತ್ಯನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ,
ಪತಿತರಾ ಸಹವಾಸ ಹಿತವೆಂದರುಪದೇ, ಸದ್ಗತಿ ನೀವ ಮಾರ್ಗ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ॥ ೨ ॥

ನಿರುತ ತತ್ವ ನಿಶ್ಚಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಜ್ಞಾನ, ಗುರುಹಿರಿಯರಲಿ ಭಕ್ತಿ, ದುರ್ವಿಷಯದಲಿ ವಿರಕ್ತಿನಿತ್ತು,
ವರ ವಿಜಯ ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ। ವಿಠಲ ಸುರರೊಡೆಯ ಒರೆದು ನಾಮಾಮೃತವ ನುಡಿಸೀ ॥ ೩ ॥

(in Baraha format)

karuNisu jayEsha viThala| vara aMkitavidanu itte || pa || taruLa ninnavaneMdu | guruvAta sthitanAgi | bharadi pAliside ivana | hari nI niddeDege karesi || a.pa ||

irisu varNAshrama varadharma karmagaLalli, maresi kAmya karmagaLellavannu, smarisadaMte mADu parasatiyarolime, mareyadaMtirali paratatvavannu || 1||

atithi abhyAgatara pUje sati suta parivAradi kRuta kRutyanAgi mADisi, patitarA sahavAsa hitaveMdarupadE, sadgati nIva mArga tiLisi || 2||

niruta tatva nishchayadalli j-jAna, guruhiriyarali bhakti, durviShayadali viraktinittu, vara vijaya rAmachaMdra| viThala suraroDeya oredu nAmAmRutava nuDisI ||3||

shrI jayEsha viThThala dAsaru composed more than 500 *krutis* on *shrI hari*, His consort *shrI lakshmi*, *shrI vAyu*, his *parama guru shrI krishnAryaru*, his *guru shrI rAmaryaru*, on the topic of *jIva kartrutva* & so on. In addition he has also composed more than 10 *suLAdis*.

Some remarkable incidents in the life of Shri Jayesha Vittala Dasaru

Incident #1: While he was the sub-division officer in Shimoga

Udupi and Subramanya are great devotional/historic centers for all *vAishnavas.* In Subramanya, during the months (*mAsa*) of *mArgashira, pushya & mAgha,* on the 6th day of the 1st fortnight (*shuddha shashti),* people gather to celebrate a grand festival (*rathOtsava*) and thereby have a fair (*jAtre*). To attend these festivities, *shrI jayEsha viThThala dAsaru* wrote to all his disciples in Mysore asking them to head over to Shimoga. Just a couple of days prior to the *jAtre*, there was a sudden outbreak of cholera and plague in the city and the government was forced to issue a mandate in Mysore to prohibit people from leaving town. Since these deceases were contagious, travelling folks could pass it on and the outcome would be devastating.

Shri Sheshagiri Rao (eldest grandson*)* and his younger brother Shri Bhima Rao had travelled to Mysore & were to accompany *shrI dAsaru* to the *jAtre.* They were now in a fix since they could neither proceed to Shimoga nor stay back in Mysore. When they were in this dilemma, one night Lord *shrI tAijasa* appeared in Shri Sheshagiri Rao's dream and said thus, "O! Shesha, I have exchanged the letter!!" To prove the same, the mail that arrived the next morning came in with an amendment stating that some members chosen by the high-ranking officers of the Mysore state should be given an opportunity to travel. Needless to say, this news brought in the much needed relief & joy to all the devotees. Later, two bullock carts (*yettina gADi)* loaded with excited pilgrims arrived at the gates of Subramanya but were abruptly stopped at the toll-gate. *shrI dAsaru* arrived at the scene and displayed his permit expecting the official to let his entire *bhakta vrunda* (troupe) to gain entry into the city.

To his disappointment, he was declined since unfortunately he carried just a single entry permit. At that point, *shrI dAsaru* used his power, position and ingenuity to persuade the officer to let him have at least one more person to assist him with the cooking duties. While amidst these deliberations, he cleverly "winked" at his devotees & stealthily but silently led them through the gate. Finally, *ShrI dAsaru* as though to show disappointment, came in alone putting up a disheartened face.

Later, all the folks took a holy dip in the waters of Kumaradhara, had the *darushana* of *ShrI subramanyEshvara, vyAsa saMputa & shrI kumara swAmi.* From there, *shrI dAsaru* lead all of them to *kumara parvata.* History tells us that he made this comment, "Do you know *giri-amma, shrI Vishnu tIrtha* is mediating somewhere in the midst of these mountains? If only he could kindly wave his *kAvi shAThi* (saffron shawl), we could all get the *sOwbhAgya* of his *darushana*". Thus, the entire troupe returned to their native places filled with joy after a successful trip. For those who have been bestowed with the grace of *shrI hari, vAyu & gurugalu,* is there anything that cannot be accomplished!?

Incident #2: While he was the district collector (DC) in Shimoga

The Mysore Resident (a post established by the British) officer wished to visit Jog falls and the required preparation for this trip were in full swing. The bungalow where the Resident & his family were to stay during the trip needed a green *pandal* (a temporary awning) at the entrance. Unfortunately, this notice reached the DC just one day prior to the Resident's arrival. However, as this was a government order, the task had to be completed, no matter what. Since *shrI dAsaru* was capable & efficient, he motivated all the laborers to work all night and finished the task quite remarkably. By, 7:30 AM the next morning, all the high-ranking officials were ready to receive the party.

The Resident couple upon arriving were awestruck by this beautifully constructed *pandal* and upon learning that *shrI dAsaru* was responsible for the same, showered him with a ton of praises. After staying a couple of days and when they were about to return, *shrI dAsaru* came over to meet them for one last time. Later, he was repeatedly persuaded by the Resident to ask for something in return (since *shrI dAsaru* had pleased him so much during the stay by taking care of all the logistics in a timely manner). Upon which, *shrI dAsaru* simply smiled & said that he would ask for something only if he was promised of getting it. The Resident was overjoyed, replied that he would keep up his word & *shrI dAsaru* should go ahead with his request.

shrI dAsaru being a great *vairAgi* (one who is free from attachment) then said, "please relieve me from this service" upon hearing which, the Resident was extremely disheartened, but had to keep his word. Further upon, knowing that *shrI dAsaru* had a well educated eldest son, Shri KrishnaSwamy Rao, the Resident provided the young man a well deserving post in the establishment (thanks to his well respected father)!!

Incident #3: A strange event during a "Khedda" project

Once when a governor was visiting Shimoga/Heggadevana-Kote, a "Khedda" (the process of taming wild elephants) project was in progress. This was a dense forest & apparently was also used for hunting tigers. In a nearby flat land, several tents were erected for the governor and his party of officials to reside. One among them was our *shrI dAsaru.*

The next day while waiting in the bushes for a lonely tiger, they spotted one and tried to shoot it down. Due to the Lord's grace, it miraculously survived but was overly enraged. It started roaring in anger and immediately raced towards the camp whereby all the folks now scared to death decided to hastily ascend the nearby trees. *shrI dAsaru* could not do so since he was not aware of the trick.

Nevertheless, since he was an authority in practicing *vyAptatva* (*enna swami, sarva swami, bhinna rahita akhila jagadantaryAmi - shrI hari's* omnipresent quality) of the Lord, knew that *jIvas* are totally dependent (on the Lord) & thus did not find any difference in the Indweller within the beast to the one residing in his own self (his own *biMba).* Thinking

so, he just stood there deciding to let the matter rest in the Lord's hands irrespective of the outcome. The other folks beside him were shouting in Hindi ("*chalo sAb, chalo sAb*") while continuing to climb the trees. To their bewilderment, *shrI dAsaru* just patted the tiger and made a sign asking to move along. When his relatives filled with fear, came running along to check on him, they were both surprised & happy to see *shrI dAsaru* unharmed.

Then, his officer came along and said so, "I say Mr. Venkata Rao, what happened to the tiger? How did it leave without harming you? We thought you were lost and it's a mystery that you have survived". Saying so, the officer shook hands with *shrI dAsaru* and praised him further.

Incident #4: An episode that occurred during Navaratri celebrations at "Katte Mane" (the house where *shrI dAsaru* resided most of his life)

A retired district registrar, Shri Govinda Rao, also a disciple of *shrI pArAtpara viThThala dAsaru* was aware of *shrI dAsaru* and was waiting since a long time to get his blessings by being able to serve him. As instructed in his dream, Shri Govinda Rao & his wife came to the Navaratri festivities. They had decided beforehand to prepare sweets & savories (*bhakSha bhOjya)* and offer the same to the Lord. Also, they arrived fully prepared carrying with them all the required groceries.

bhakti (devotion) towards the Lord cannot be measured based on one's prestige. There is an apt example illustrated in *shrimadbhAgavata*. There once lived a poor Brahmin by the name of Shrutadeva. Incidentally, the ruler of the land was his namesake (bearing the same name Shrutadeva)!! When *shrI Krishna* arrived there, both these men were present to receive the Lord. Upon accepting their dual invitations, the Lord with his immense powers let them both serve him at the same time in their respective homes.

Similarly, the Govinda Rao couple (even thouh they were well off in the society), being great devotees of the Lord, worked tirelessly for all the 10 days and prepared delicious sweets such as *maMDige, shAvige, phENi* & so on for *nAivEdya* (a *vaishNava* custom where in the Lord is offered the meal whilst chanting *dwAdasha stOtra).* While drawing a hefty sum of Rs. 500 as his salary (considered very high during the time), isn't it astonishing to see him work in the kitchen? People should not forget that *bhakti* alone rules when pleasing *shrI hari & gurugalu.* On similar lines, *shrI puraMdara dAsaru* in his "*Enu dhanyaLo lakumi, eShTu mAnyaLO*" *dEvaranAma* says that, even though she is capable of assigning the right posts for *shrI brahma* & the rest, she is relentlessly serving her husband & our Lord.

No matter where he was, *shrI dAsaru* always made sure that he took his troupe on all his pilgrimages. His favorite places were *shrI shrInivAsa* at Tirupati, Udupi, Pandharapuara, Mantralaya & Ibharampura. Every year he used to pick one place among the above and continued the loop thereafter. Once, among this regular troupe there was also one Shricharana Rangamma *deviyaru* who accompanied *shrI dAsaru* to Tirupati for the

Brahmotsava celebrations. When the chariot was being pulled, it suddenly stopped in front of *mahanta's* temple. For a while, the folks who oil the wheels, the ones who push from behind and the ones who pull the ropes, all of them tried in vain to move the chariot, but it did not even shake, let alone go forward. Upon then, *shrI dAsaru* just glanced at Shri Rangamma *deviyaru* who immediately understood his intent and composed this *dEvaranAma* impromptu in *kAmbodhi rAga*, "*baruvalli yAko bhArgavi vallabha, sarisijAsana mukya – girisha amrEMdranuta*". Undoubtedly, this pleased Lord *ShrinivAsa* and the chariot once again started to move, this time more so easily.

Incident #5: When *shrI dAsaru* was in Tanjore

shrI dAsaru was staying at Shri Sanjeeva Rao's house in Tanjore. While during *shrI sumdhva vijaya pArayana* (chanting) in the fields, to everyone's surprise & shock a cobra arrived on the scene and sat nodding its head during the whole duration. Later, after *shrI dAsaru* completed his *pArayana*, it silently slithered away!!

Incident #6: When *shrI dAsaru* was in Madras

shrI dAsaru used to have frequent discussions with Sri Krishnacharya who was the grandson of *shrI appavaru* (also known as Shri Krishnacharya of Ibharampura). They used to always talk about *shrI appavaru*. History tells us that during such meetings; again a cobra could be seen in the vicinity during the entire duration of the meeting. Further more, it was not a one day event, but the snake would present itself on all the days during this period.

Incident #7: While the king's *durbar* was in session

Shri Sheshadri Iyer used to be emperor's *diwAn* (high placed official in the palace) at the time. He and Shri Venkata Rao *(shrI dAsaru)* were close friends. That said, *shrI dAsaru* was a stanch follower of *dvaita siddhAnta* and believed firmly in his own religion & philosophy. He did not partake with food & water outside even if he met a high-ranking officer of the state. Somehow this principle of *shrI dAsaru* was not taken in good spirit by the *diwAn*. He had a desire to persuade *shrI dAsaru* and change his thinking as himself.

During the state session, the *diwAn* & *shrI dAsaru* were sitting next to each other on the last day of the *durbAr*. After the session, while they were alighting the stairs, Shri Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar met them at the foot of the steps. Seizing the moment, the *diwAn* addressed *shrI dAsaru* loudly (so that the king could hear them) & thus exclaimed, "Shri Venkata Rao, you haven't honored the king's invitation by having a meal with all of us. You should definitely make it this year as per the king's order." To that, *shrI dAsaru* wittingly & loudly responded, "The food that I eat everyday is due to the grace of the king, not otherwise!" The king, who overheard this conversation, praised *shrI dAsaru* for his unflinching stance and walked away.

Incident #8: Meeting with the revered Shri Rangamma *deviyaru*

Shri Krishna Murthy was the *diwAn* during the time and *shrI dAsaru* was the sub-division officer in Mysore. Once, the *diwAn* had to make an official trip to Nanjanagud. The sub-division officer and other officials had also accompanied him during the trip. They decided to head over to the Shri Shiva temple and get the blessings. At the temple, they were all received with a warm welcome & treated with a high degree of respect, as deserved. But the *diwAn* seemed to be unaware of the place where this undue respect was being given. Upon seeing *shrI rudra dEvaru,* his companions immediately prostrated *(shAstAMga namaskAra)* & seemed happy to be there. The *diwAn* was now forced to do same even though he preferred not to. The temple officials once again bid them farewell with all due respects.

Before coming to the temple, the *diwAn* was appraised of one Shri Rangamma *deviyaru*, who was a great devotee of Shri Shiva. He was also informed that, it is customary to visit Shri Rangamma *deviyaru* for all who come to the temple. To that the *diwAn* responded by saying that such a visit would not suit his prestige!! *shrI dAsaru* then offered that he would accompany the *diwAn*. While coming around the temple campus & crossing the bridge, *shrI dAsaru* informed the other party to go ahead as he would take the *diwAn* to Shri Rangamma *devi's* house. As no one dared to speak, they were forced to proceed. Upon reaching the destination, *shrI dAsaru* forced Shri Krishna Murthy to pay due respects to Shri Rangamma *devyaru* and this is how he was blessed by the latter:

ಜಯವಾಗಲಯ್ಯ ನಿನಗೆ ॥ ಪ ॥
ಜಯಲಕ್ಶ್ಮಿಅರಸ ಬೆಂಬಲನಾಗಿರಲೀಸದಾ ॥ ಅ–ಪ ॥

ವಿದ್ಯಓಲಗವು ಸದ್ಬುದ್ಧಿವಶವಾಗಿರಲಿ। ಮಧ್ವಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದಲಿ ಮನವೆರಗು ತಿರಲೀ ಮಧ್ವವಲ್ಲಭನಿನ್ನ ।
ಮನದಿ ನೆಲಗೊಂಡಿರಲೀ । ಮುದ್ದಾಗಿ ತೋರುತಿರು ಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ॥ ೧ ॥

ಪರಿಪರಿಯ ವಾಹನವು । ಧನಕನಕ ವಸನಗಳೂ ।
ಶಿರಿದೇವಿನಿನ್ನ ಮಂದಿರದಲಿರಲಿ । ದುರಿತಗಳು ಪೋಗಲಿ ॥
ಚಿರಂಜೀವಿಯಾಗಿರೂ । ಧರೆಯ ಸಜ್ಜನರೆಲ್ಲ ಕೃಪೆಮಾಡುತಿರಲಿ ಸದಾ ॥ ೨ ॥

ಅನ್ನದಾನವು ಸದಾ । ಮಾನ್ಯದಾನವು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಕನ್ಯಾದಾನವಮಾಡುನೀ ।
ನಿನ್ನ ಕಂಡವರಿಗೆ । ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಾಗುತಿರಲೀ ಚನ್ನಗೋವ್ಗಳರಾಯ ।
ಬಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣನದಯದೀ ॥ ೩ ॥

The *diwAn* then felt that he was extremely fortunate to receive such divine blessings and prostrated to Shri Rangamma *devyaru.* He also thanked *shrI dAsaru* for his compassion.

Incident #9: Visit to Shri Helavanakatte Giriyamma's place when *shrI dAsaru* was in Chitradurga

shrI dAsaru wished to see the place where the great devotee Shri Helavanakatte Giriyamma lived and also visit Shri Ranganatha's temple nearby. This sincere wish of his was not only fulfilled but he was also able to get the blessings of Shri Pataleshvara. While he was prostrating, 2 champak *(saMpige)* flowers fell into his hands from *shrI rudra dEvaru* to signify that he was blessed!! He saved these flowers for a long time and used to store it in his worshipping box *(dEvara pettige)*.

Incident #10: His pilgrimage to Tirupati

Once when *shrI dAsaru* was in Tirupati to get the blessings of Lord Shrinivasa, the state governor was also scheduled to visit at the same time. It is customary when such dignitaries arrive to lock the temple gates, meet the party mid-way on the steps of Tirumala & hand over the keys personally. It so happened that when *shrI dAsaru* was still within the temple complex, the authorities locked the gates in preparation for the governor's arrival even before he could come around (*pradakShiNe*) once around the temple. Obviously, *shrI dAsaru* was all alone within the temple. He then suddenly found a Brahmin giving a discourse on one of the *purANas* in front of *vimAna ShrinivAsa* & *shrI dAsaru* just stood there listening to him with rapt attention. Just then to his surprise, a tall Iyengar person displaying brightly colored lines on his forehead *(doDDa nAma)* arrived on the scene as though to witness just this scene and made a comment in Tamil, "*IvAL gurugaLakku, shiShyarikku pAtAka rOMDu kaNNu pOrAde!!*" (Implying, two eyes are not enough to witness this rare situation of a *guru* & *shishya* being together) and walked away. *shrI dAsaru* completed his second *pradakShiNe* & came back to the same spot, but to his surprise he could neither see the Brahmin nor the Iyengar preson!!

In the meanwhile, the governor's party arrived and the temple gates were held open. At this instant, *shrI dAsaru* once again saw *shrI gurugaLu* (the Brahmin) in *padmasarOvara* at the premises of Shri Padmavati *devi's* temple!! The temple authorities noted that the VIP from Mysore had arrived and honored him with plates full of *ariShiNa* (turmeric), *kuMkuma* (read lead), flowers & sugar. Further more, they also let him perform the *maMgaLArati* (an Indian custom wherein a small fire wick is waved around/in-front-of the Lord). They gave this *maMgaLArati* first to the Brahmin and then to *shrI dAsaru.* He was also given the *prasAda* (eatables offered to the Lord) plate as well. Also, for about ten minutes, the temple priest placed his hand on these two and blessed them. Finally, *shrI dAsaru* was bent upon following this Brahmin & made several attempts as well, but the latter had disappeared in an instant!!

Incident #11: The carriage *shrI dAsaru* was travelling on topples off while travelling to Tirumkudlu

Once, when *shrI dAsaru* was travelling to Tirumkudlu/Narasipura on official business in a horse driven carriage, it unfortunately fell into a pit about 25 feet deep. It

was later found that the axel broke leading to the accident. A few minutes later the blood stained charioteer arrived on the scene holding the horse. He was anxiously looking for *shrI dAsaru* hoping that his injuries were minimal. To his surprise & relief, he was amazed to see *shrI dAsaru* just sitting there totally unharmed!! History tells us that *shrI dAsaru* informed his friends that he was saved by the Lord Himself.

Incident #12: *ShrI dAsaru* dances in His glory

ShrI dAsaru used to inform his sister to close the doors and he would go inside, wear his *kAlgejje* (anklet), hold his *tambUri* (four stringed musical instrument) and dance around for about 2 to 3 hours!! It used to take about an hour to render each *dEvaranAma* & *ShrI dAsaru* would have lost sense of the outer world during the whole duration immersed in his solitary service *(EkAMta sEve)* to his *biMba rUpi paramAtma (shrI hari)*. This rare feat of *ShrI dAsaru* was disclosed by Kalale Kusanna's grand daughter Matrushri Venkamma as seen by her during her childhood days. She narrated the same to her younger brother, Kalale Ramarayaru.

Incident #13: *shrI dAsaru* rejoices during *EkAdashI AcharaNe*

ShrI dAsaru and his family celebrated every *EkAdashI* (the 11th day of every fortnight wherein all *vaiShNavAs* fast the entire day and spend their time in praise of the Lord) in grand style. They did *jAgaraNe* (staying awake the entire night and sing *dEvaranAmas* in the Lord's praise) without fail and by the time they finished the *nartana sEva* (dance in the Lord's praise in *haridAsa* style), it would have been dawn on the next day (implying time to break the fast & have early morning lunch on *dwAdaShi*, the 12th day). But, they since would be totally immersed in singing/dancing, they hardly took notice of the sunrise.

ShrI dAsaru used to do *pArayaNa* (chant) of *shrI bhAgavata & shrI sumadhva vijaya* innumerable times. After every round, he used to pour *maMtrAkShate* (red/yellow colored non-cooked rice) and would instill *bhakti* in the devotees witnessing this special event, thereby leading to *AnaMdabAShpa* (tears of joy).

It is understood that *shrI dAsaru* thus said to one of his disciples, Shri Ramarayaru (not to be confused with his guru bearing the same name) while performing *dEvara pUje* in *shrI katte mane*, "Don't think that these are all just mere photo frames!! All of them have the *sannidhAna* (presence) of the great souls. Hence, make sure you apply *gaMdha* (sandal wood paste applied all over the body & forehead) *& akShate* (paste prepared using dried banana leaves applied on the forehead) properly!!"